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SCIENTIFIC-ATLANTA, INC.
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
5030 SUGARLOAF PARKWAY
LAWRENCEVILLE, GA 30044

EXAMINER

LONSBERRY, HUNTER B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2611

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/558,556

Applicant(s)

RODRIGUEZ ET AL.

Examiner

Hunter B. Lonsberry

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21,25,28-30,32-34,36-43,46-52 and 54-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21,25,28-30,32-34,36-43,46-52 and 54-69 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant argues that Matthews fails to teach program information included with a received program guide and related to video programs displayed simultaneously with the video programs (response page 20).

Regarding applicants argument, Matthews clearly shows in figure 4, a video program within frame 104 and program information (channel id, broadcaster id and broadcaster icon) 106. Matthews discloses that figure 4 is a video program guide 100 (column 4, lines 44-61, column 7, line 43-column 8, line 2), which includes information on the locations pointing to the source of the multiframe and signal frame video segments for the channels and the text and graphic information corresponding to the channels (column 5, lines 62-column 6, line 6), in addition the receiver 20 either maintains an EPG database or in memory 68 or it is stored at control node 12 (column 6, lines 35-38).

Applicant argues that Matthews does not inherently scale down the resolution of the displayed programs in figure 4 (response page 22).

Regarding applicants argument, Matthews discloses in column 4, lines 21-34, that video processor 74 decompresses, sizes and positions a video display window. As Matthews discloses that if the program selected in figure 4 is currently broadcast, the

controller 20 tunes the programming and renders it within tile 102a (column 5, lines 23-28).

Applicant argues that Matthews requires more than one key press is required to display program guide data simultaneously with multiple images (response page 23).

Regarding applicants argument, Matthews discloses that the user may request display of the guide (column 5, lines 52-61), and that the guide is displayed. The guide does not require a second button press in order for a particular tile to be selected for focus as Matthews indicates on column 6, lines 12-16 that "Initially, upon accessing video program guide 100, focused video program tile 102a is selected as the channel on IT system 10 most recently vided on the selected video display set 18 before video program guide 100 was requested." Therefore, no additional input is required.

Applicant argues that Matthews do not include memory with multiple video sections (response page 25).

Regarding applicants argument, Matthews discloses that multiple tuners may be employed to display multiple video segments at the same time (column 9, lines 50-61). As Matthews discloses that video subsystem 74, decompresses digital video, and there is a single memory in the system, memory must be partitioned so that multiple channels may be displayed simultaneously.

Applicant traverses the examiners official notice that the use of a tuner to retrieve EPG information is well known in the art.

Regarding applicants argument, the official notice has been replaced by a citation to U.S. Patent 6,177,931 to Alexander.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 21, 25, 28-30, 32-34, 36-43, 47-49, 51, 52, 54-64 and 66-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,815,145 to Matthews.

Regarding claim 21, Matthews discloses in figures 4 and 5, a method implemented by a digital home communication terminal (DHCT) for enabling a user to scroll through a plurality of video programs received via a plurality of transmission channels (column 3, lines 16-23, 55-62), comprising the steps of:

tuning to a first plurality of transmission channels via one or more respective tuners 62 (column 3, line 64-column 4, line 5, lines 44-55, column 9, lines 50-61),

receiving a first plurality of video programs including a first video program and a second video program via the first plurality of transmission channels (figure 4, column 5,

lines 15-46, column 9, lines 56-61), wherein each of the first plurality of video programs comprises a plurality of time-sequential pictures (column 9, lines 56-61);

outputting the first plurality of video programs to a display device configured to simultaneously display the first plurality of video programs(column 9, lines 56-61), wherein a first video program is displayed in a first video display area (figure 4, left most area 104) of the display device and a second video program is displayed in a second video display area of the display device (figure 4, middle area 104);

receiving via a tuner a program guide data including program information related to the first video program and program information related to the second video program and program information related to a third video program (EPG data may found by tuning to a specific channel carrying the data, column 5, lines 52-62, column 6, lines 35-38, column 7, line 43-column 8, line 7);

outputting the program guide data to the display device simultaneously with the first plurality of video programs, wherein at least a portion of the program information related to the first video program is displayed at a location corresponding to the first video program and at least a portion of the program information related to the second video program is displayed at a location corresponding to the second video program (figure 4, EPG data corresponding to each program 104 is in location 106, column 4, lines 55-61);

receiving user input (column 10, lines 15-21); and

responsive to receiving the user input outputting a second plurality of video programs including the third video program and the second video program to the display

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device, wherein the second video program is displayed in the first video display area of the display device and the third video program is displayed in the second video display area of the display device (Figure 6, column 10, lines 11-25).

Regarding claim 25, Matthews discloses,

responsive to receiving the user input (column 10, lines 15-21)

outputting to the display device program guide data that includes at least a portion of the program information related to the second video program and at least a portion of the program information related to the third video program, wherein the at least a portion of the program information related to the second video program is displayed at a location corresponding to the second video program and the at least a portion of the program information related to the third video program is displayed at a location corresponding to the third video program (figure 4, EPG data corresponding to each program 104 is in location 106, column 4, lines 55-61).

Regarding claims 28 and 58, Matthews discloses in figure 4, a number of images from programming, these images may be obtained via multiple tuners (column 9, lines 50-61). Matthews inherently scales down the resolution of the tiled programs in figure 4, as the use may select how many programs may be simultaneously displayed (column 10, lines 47-63), thus a larger number of simultaneously displayed programs requires a lower display resolution for each program.

Regarding claim 29, Matthews shows in figure 4, a plurality of tiles 104, which are the same size and do not overlap one another.

Regarding claim 30, Matthews discloses that the first plurality of video programs may be outputted to the display device, by a user entering a video program guide, the user may enter a channel number to begin output of the program guide (column 5, lines 52-61).

Regarding claim 32, Matthews discloses a method for enabling the simultaneous viewing of video programs and related electronic program guide information (figures 4/5), comprising:

receiving a plurality of video programs substantially simultaneously by tuning to a plurality of transmission channels via a plurality of respective tuners (column 9, lines 50-61, figure 4), the plurality of video programs including a first video program and a second video program, wherein the first and second video programs each comprise a plurality of time-sequential pictures (each tile 104, column 9, lines 50-61);

receiving via a tuner a program guide data including program information related to the first video program and program information related to the second video program (EPG data may be found by tuning to a specific channel carrying the data, column 5, lines 52-62, column 6, lines 35-38, column 7, line 43-column 8, line 7);

receiving a first user input (user accessing the video program guide, figure 5, step 120); and

responsive to receiving the first user input outputting to a display device a television signal comprising of a simultaneous visual presentation of the plurality of video programs with program guide data, wherein the first and second video programs are located in respective first and second video display areas 104 of the visual presentation and the program guide data includes at least a portion of program information 106 related to the first video program and at least a portion of program information 106 related to the second video program (column 4, lines 55-61).

Regarding claim 33, Mathews discloses receiving a second user input', and responsive to receiving the second the user input (column 10, lines 11-25, figure 6),

outputting to the display device a second plurality of video programs including a third video program and the second video program, wherein the second video program is displayed in the first video display area of the visual presentation and the third video program is displayed in the second video display area of the visual presentation (column 10, lines 11-25, figure 6),

outputting to the display device at least a portion of the program information 106 related to the second video program and at least a portion of the program information 106 related to the third video program (figure 4).

Regarding claim 34, Matthews discloses in figure 4, that the first program is displayed in a first area 104 and the second program is displayed in a second area

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104, wherein at least a portion of the program information related to the first video program is displayed at a location corresponding to the first video program and at least a portion of the program information related to the second video program is displayed at a location corresponding to the second video program (figure 4, EPG data corresponding to each program 104 is in location 106, column 4, lines 55-61).

Regarding claim 36, Matthews discloses in figure 4, a number of images from programming, these images may be obtained via multiple tuners (column 9, lines 50-61), video processor subsystem 74, which is controlled by cpu 66, decompresses video signals and sizes and positions the video display windows (column 4, lines 22-26).

Matthews inherently scales down the resolution of the tiled programs in figure 4, as the use may select how many programs may be simultaneously displayed (column 10, lines 47-63), thus a larger number of simultaneously displayed programs requires a lower display resolution for each program.

Regarding claim 37, Matthews shows in figure 4, a plurality of tiles 104, which are the same size and do not overlap one another.

Regarding claim 38, Matthews discloses that the first plurality of video programs may be outputted to the display device, by a user entering a video program guide, the use may enter a channel number to begin output of the program guide (column 5, lines 52-61).

Regarding claim 39, Matthews discloses a method for providing a user with program information corresponding to future television programs (figures 4/5), comprising the steps of:

receiving via a tuner 62 a program guide data (EPG data may found by tuning to a specific channel carrying the data, column 5, lines 52-62, column 6, lines 35-38, column 7, line 43-column 8, line 7) including program information corresponding to a plurality of television programs scheduled on the first television channel (column 9, lines 26-31, 40-61);

receiving a plurality of pictures, the plurality including at least one picture corresponding to each respective television program in the plurality of television programs, wherein at least one of the pictures in the plurality corresponds to a television program to be broadcast in the future on a first television channel (column 9, lines 26-31, 40-61);

receiving user input (user accessing the video program guide, figure 5, step 120);
and

responsive to receiving the user input outputting a television signal comprising a simultaneous visual presentation of the plurality of pictures and program guide data, wherein at least a portion of the program information corresponding to each respective television program in the plurality of television programs is included in the visual presentation (Figure 4, column 4, lines 44-61).

Regarding claim 40, Matthews discloses in figure 4, that at least one picture and program information corresponds to each respective TV program are co located in a respective display area of the visual presentation (Figure 4, column 4, lines 44-61).

Regarding claims 41, 43, and 54, Matthews discloses in figure 2, a digital home communication terminal (DHCT) configured to enable a user to scroll through a plurality of video programs received via a plurality of transmission channels, comprising:

a plurality of tuners 62 (column 9, lines 51-61) configured to substantially simultaneously tune to a first plurality of transmission channels carrying a first plurality of video programs including a first video program and a second video program;

memory 68 configured to store executable instructions (column 4, lines 9-11);
and

at least one processor 66 that is programmed by the executable instructions to enable the DHCT to output the first plurality of video programs to a display device configured to simultaneously display the first plurality of video programs (column 4, lines 9-18, 27-34, 44-55), wherein a first video program is displayed in a first video display area 104 of the display device and a second video program is displayed in a second video display area 104 of the display device (figure 4);

receiving via at least one tuner a program guide data including program information 106 related to the first video program and program information 106 related to the second video program (figure 4, EPG data may found by tuning to a specific

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channel carrying the data, column 5, lines 52-62, column 6, lines 35-38, column 7, line 43-column 8, line 7);

outputting the program guide data to the display device simultaneously with the first plurality of video programs, wherein at least a portion of the program information related to the first video program is displayed at a location corresponding to the first video program and at least a portion of the program information related to the second video program is displayed at location corresponding to the second video program (figure 4, program information 106 corresponds to each program 104); and

output, responsive to user input received by the DHCT, a second plurality of video programs including a third video program and the second video program to the display device (figure 6, column 10, lines 11-25),

wherein the second video program is displayed in the first video display area of the display device and the third video program is displayed in the second video display area of the display device (figure 6, column 10, lines 11-25).

Regarding claims 42 and 55, Matthews discloses in figures 4, and 6a/b, that a plurality of channels may be tuned to simultaneously, and may have a common channel displayed (column 10, lines 11-25), as when the user scrolls to the left, the left most channel moves to the middle, and the left most tile is replaced by a new program channel, additionally program information 106 is displayed for each corresponding program 104.

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Regarding claim 45, Matthews shows in figure 4, that EPG data corresponding to each program 104 is in location 106 (column 4, lines 55-61).

Regarding claims 47 and 57, Matthews discloses that EPG data for the programs is stored in memory 68 (column 6, lines 34-38).

Regarding claim 48, Matthews discloses a method implemented by a digital home communication terminal (DHCT) having a plurality of tuners (column 9, lines 51-61), comprising the steps of:

- receiving a first video program via a first tuner (figure 4, column 9, lines 51-61);
- receiving a second video program via a second tuner (column 9, lines 51-61),
- receiving via at least one tuner a program guide data including program information related to the first video program and program information related to the second video program (figure 4, EPG data 106 may found by tuning to a specific channel carrying the data, column 5, lines 52-62, column 6, lines 35-38, column 7, line 43-column 8, line 7);

- receiving user input (figure 5, step 120),
- outputting the first and second video programs to a display device responsive to receiving the user input (figure 4, column 6, lines 10-17); and

- outputting at least a portion of program information related to the first and second video programs to the display device responsive to receiving the user input (column 4, lines 56-61);

wherein the first and second video programs 104 and the program guide data 106 are displayed simultaneously by the display device (figure 4).

Regarding claims 49 and 56, Matthews discloses in figure 2, that there is an analog tuner 62a and digital tuner 62b, and that programs may be analog or digital (column 3, lines 19-24).

Regarding claim 51, Matthews shows in figure 4, a first second and third program 104, each with program information 106.

Regarding claim 52, Matthews discloses that the first and second programs may be outputted at the display device, by a plurality of tuners, which tune and render the displayed channels (column 9, lines 56-61).

Regarding claim 59, Matthews discloses in figure 2, a DHCT configured to provide a user with program information corresponding to future television programs comprising:

at least one tuner 62 configured to receive a program guide data (EPG data may found by tuning to a specific channel carrying the data, column 5, lines 52-62, column 6, lines 35-38, column 7, line 43-column 8, line 7) including program information corresponding to a plurality of television programs scheduled on the first television channel (column 9, lines 26-31, 40-61)

at least one tuner configured to receive a plurality of pictures, the plurality including at least one picture corresponding to each respective television program in the plurality of television programs wherein at least one of the pictures in the plurality corresponds to a television program to be broadcast in the future on a first television channel (column 9, lines 26-31, 40-61);

a first memory 68 configured to store executable instructions (column 4, lines 9-11); and

at least one processor 66 that is programmed by the executable instructions (column 4, lines 9-34) to enable the DHCT to output a television signal comprising a simultaneous visual presentation of the plurality of pictures and program guide data (figure 4), wherein at least a portion of the program information 106 corresponding to each respective television program 104 in the plurality of sequential television programs is included in the visual presentation.

Regarding claim 60, Matthews discloses in figure 4, that at least one picture and program information corresponds to each respective TV program are co located in a respective display area of the visual presentation (Figure 4, column 4, lines 44-61).

Regarding claim 61, Matthews discloses a method for enabling the simultaneous viewing of video programs and related electronic program guide information (figures 4/5), comprising:

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receiving a plurality of video programs substantially simultaneously by tuning to a plurality of transmission channels via a plurality of respective tuners (column 9, lines 50-61, figure 4), the plurality of video programs including a first video program and a second video program, wherein the first and second video programs each comprise a plurality of time-sequential pictures (each tile 104, column 9, lines 50-61);

receiving via a tuner a program guide data including program information related to the first video program and program information related to the second video program (EPG data may found by tuning to a specific channel carrying the data, column 5, lines 52-62, column 6, lines 35-38, column 7, line 43-column 8, line 7);

configuring a memory to output the first plurality of video programs (column 4, lines 21-34, video processor subsystem 74 must include a memory, as memory is required to decompress a digital video signal);

configuring an output buffer in the memory with a plurality of video sections including a first video section for a plurality of scaled time-sequential pictures of the first video program and a second video section for a plurality of scaled time-sequential pictures of the second video program (column 4, lines 21-34, video processor subsystem 74 must include a memory, as memory is required to decompress a digital video signal, and Matthews also discloses that multiple tuners may be utilized in order to display several channels simultaneously, column 9, lines 56-61);

configuring the output buffer with a plurality of program information 106 sections including a first program information section for at least a portion of the program information related to the first video program and a second program information section

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for at least a portion of the program information related to the second video program (Figure 4, column 4, lines 21-34, Matthews discloses that video processor 74 and mixer 76 may combine locally generated graphics with a received video signal);

configuring the location of the video section and program information section in the output buffer for each respective video program (Figure 4, column 4, lines 21-34, Matthews discloses that video processor 74 and mixer 76 may combine locally generated graphics with a received video signal);;

storing a plurality of the scaled time-sequential pictures of the first video program in the first video section and a plurality of the scaled time-sequential pictures of the second video program in the second video section (Figure 4, column 4, lines 21-34, video processor 74 resizes the incoming video);

storing program information (column 4, lines 55-61, column 5, lines 52-62, column 6, lines 35-38, column 7, line 43-column 8, line 7), related to the first video program in the first program information section and program information related to the second video program in the second program information section, and

outputting the output buffer to a display device (column 4, lines 18-21).

Regarding claim 62, Matthews discloses in figures 4 and 6 a/b, that a user may scroll leftwards to view additional programs, the left most program moves to the center and a new program takes its place in the left most spot with corresponding information 106 being displayed in the proper frame (column 10, lines 11-25), memory stores the

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incoming digital programs prior to display (Figure 4, column 4, lines 21-34, video processor 74 resizes the incoming video).

Regarding claim 63, Matthews discloses that a first tuner may receive a preview segment corresponding to a program, and that a second tuner may display the program (column 5, lines 38-45, column 6, lines 45-44, column 9, lines 50-62).

Regarding claim 64, Matthews discloses that a first tuner may receive a preview segment corresponding to a program and EPG information, and that a second tuner may display the program (column 5, lines 38-45, column 6, lines 35-44, column 9, lines 50-62).

Regarding claim 66-68, Matthews discloses that the plurality of time sequential pictures correspond to the visual content of a program currently displayed on a first channel (column 5, lines 24-46, column 9, lines 50-61).

Regarding claim 69, Matthews discloses that the picture may correspond to a future program (column 9, lines 26-31, 40-61).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 65 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S.

Patent 5,815,145 to Matthews.

Regarding claim 65, Matthews discloses in figure 4, a video program guide.

Matthews fails to disclose displaying a broadcast starting time for a corresponding program.

The examiner takes official notice that displaying a broadcast start time in a program guide is notoriously well known in the art. Displayed program start times aide users in selecting a program to watch.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Matthews to display program start times, thus aiding a user when selecting a program to watch.

4. Claim 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S.

Patent 5,815,145 to Matthews in view of U.S. Patent, 4,809,069 to Meyer.

Regarding claim 46, Matthews discloses in figure 4, a number of tiled video windows.

Matthews fails to disclose displaying a video program displayed in the background of a first and second video program.

Meyer discloses in Figure 11, a system in which multiple PIP windows are generated and displayed over background video (column 7, line 19-59), thus enabling a user to keep track of the original program while browsing other programs.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Matthews to utilize the overlaid video of Meyer, thus enabling a user to keep track of the original program while browsing other programs.

5. Claim 50 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,815,145 to Matthews in view of U.S. Patent 6,177,931 to Alexander.

Regarding claim 50, Matthews discloses the display of program guide information in figure 4, and the use of a three tuners (figure 2), including a third tuner 62c to communicate with the headend (column 4, lines 3-8).

Matthews fails to disclose the use of a tuner, which receives EPG data prior to receiving user input.

Alexander discloses an EPG system which connects to the Internet to receive EPG information (column 8, lines 19-49), a user utilizes a remote control to display the guide (figure 1) by pressing a select key (column 3, lines 56-62), thus decreasing response times, by having the program guide data transmitted via a separate interface.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Matthews to utilize a data interface as taught by Alexander to retrieve EPG listings, thus decreasing response times, by having the program guide data transmitted via a separate interface.

The combination of Matthews and Alexander does not disclose receiving EPG listings prior to the user requesting display.

The examiner takes official notice that retrieving program guide listings prior to a user request to display them is notoriously well known in the art. Receiving the data prior to a request for display reduces the response time as data is already stored locally.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify the combination of Matthews and Alexander to retrieve the listings prior to a user display command, thus reducing response times.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hunter B. Lonsberry whose telephone number is 703-305-3234. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday during normal business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on 703-305-4755. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HBL



CHRIS GRANT
PRIMARY EXAMINER